

Inquiry Hears Cultist's Admission

By DAVID VIDAL

GEORGETOWN, Guayana, Dec. 20 — A statement in which Larry Layton accepts responsibility for the deaths of United States Representative Leo J. Ryan and four other persons on Nov. 18 was read at a preliminary inquiry here today and was admitted as evidence in the hearing into multiple murder charges against Mr. Layton.

The statement was given to the police on Nov. 22, four days after the California Democrat, three American newsmen and a defector from the People's Temple were murdered at the Port Kaituma airstrip. The incident set off a chain of killings and suicides in which more than 900 members of the cult died at Jonestown.

Mr. Layton, 32 years old, who described himself in the statement as a California X-ray technician, faces murder charges in each of the five deaths and charges of attempted murder in connection with three other defectors who survived.

He is the only person charged in the murder of Representative Ryan. Witnesses have said that he did not actually shoot Mr. Ryan, but that he had tried to shoot others. Survivors of the mass deaths have said that the assassins of Mr. Ryan and the others died at Jonestown.

Said Jones Rejected Plea

Mr. Layton said in his statement that he had pleaded with the Rev. Jim Jones, the leader of the cult, to allow him to "bring down the plane," but that Mr. Jones had disapproved. The statement appeared to imply that Mr. Layton went forward with his plan without the approval of the leader of the People's Temple.

His full statement said:

"I Larry John Layton take full responsibility for all the deaths and injuries that took place at the Port Kaituma airstrip. I had begged the Bishop Jim Jones that I be allowed to bring down the plane but he disapproved. My reason for suggesting this was because I felt that those people were working in conjunction with C.I.A. to smear the People's Temple and to smear Guyana.

"I got a gun from a friend of mine Juan Pancho and I went to the airport intending to bring down the plane, but when the shooting started I also started shooting as I thought it was all too late. I don't know why I did it."

Survivor Offers Testimony

Juanita Bogue, 21, a survivor of the shooting incident at Port Kaituma, testified yesterday about her attempt to abandon the communal settlement with the Congressman, who had come to investigate charges of that people had been forced to remain there against their will.

Miss Bogue said that while she was at the airstrip she saw Mr. Layton receive a "dark object," which she believed to be a gun, from Joseph Wilson, the chief security guard at Jonestown.

The prosecutor, Nandram Kisson, has been seeking to establish that a conspiracy was involved in the Congressman's murder. The defense counsel, Rex McKay, has been attempting to show that Mr. Layton had suffered a great emotional impact from the loss of his mother, apparently in a move to lay the groundwork for an insanity plea.

The inquiry continues tomorrow.